

**July 20, 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** -U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that he has secured \$80,000 to fund renewable energy equipment at Heidelberg Farms in the Town of Scott in Cortland County.

"This funding will allow Heidelberg Farms to be an example for many of the other farms across Upstate New York," **Arcuri said**, "At a time when our farmers are seeing their costs increase across the board, the results of this project will be used to help other farms cut costs by becoming energy independent and self-reliant. I look forward to following this program closely and hope that its successes can be replicated so that more local businesses might one day operate completely off the local power grid."

This funding will flow through the Cortland County Business Development Corporation & Industrial Development Agency (BDC-IDA) for an Agri-Business Energy Independence Demonstration Project. The BCD-IDA has been working with Heidelberg Farms in the Town of Scott, to develop this project.

This funding will be used to create and publicize a demonstration of energy-independence for small farms through multi-tiered use of small-scale renewable energy equipment, enabling Heidelberg Farms in Cortland County to function completely self-reliant on energy sources. The project will use a combination of small-scale wind turbines, solar panels, battery banks, and fail-safe back-up systems, such as "green" generators.

This project will identify and highlight unique energy needs of farms and agribusinesses in rural territories of the northeast and will demonstrate renewable energy solutions to address those unique needs. This is the first of what Arcuri hopes will be many such projects and the results will be used to develop these technologies for future use.

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which passed the House of Representatives Friday. The legislation will then proceed to the Senate for approval.

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